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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)  
SUBJECT Soviet Policy Change Toward the SPD

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1. At the session of the main executive body of the East CDU on [REDACTED] 1952, [REDACTED] that the Soviets currently are reorienting their policy towards the West German SPD.

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2. [REDACTED] based this policy on the following facts: the fate of Germany will be decided in the Federal Republic within the next few weeks. The implementation of the Contractual Agreement will be a vital factor in the entire post-war European political scene. To date, efforts of the East to prevent the signing of the Agreement by propaganda, support of opposition groups, peace rallies and agitation against remilitarization have been unsuccessful. The Soviets can no longer afford to wait for results through small-scale infiltration or through the efforts of opposition groups. It is now essential to put words into action.
3. In the development of this new policy, the SPD looms as an important organization within the Federal Republic. The SPD is opposed to the Contractual Agreement and is in a position to endanger, with its slogan "First reunification, then Europe", the policy of the Adenauer Government.
4. The Soviets, however, must necessarily encounter great difficulties in approaching the SPD; the SPD is basically anti-Communist and anti-Soviet. For this reason, a direct Soviet offer to the SPD for a common policy is hardly possible. The Soviets now want to circumvent this tactical difficulty by advocating a plan of action in conformity with SPD policy but without making a direct offer to the Socialists. The Russians realize that the West German trade unions are the most important organized political factor within the Federal Republic. The unions generally support the SPD. Thus trade unions must be reminded of a weapon which is purely their own: the strike.

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5. [REDACTED] stated that a special committee is now preparing the draft of a plan calling for a West German general strike, to take place at an

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25X1A

unknown date, as soon as the Contractual Agreement is laid before the Bundestag. The Soviets would allow the SPD to develop its own propaganda against the Agreement and for reunification; this they feel will lead the SPD logically to the same conclusion, that of a general strike. In this connection, [redacted] hinted that the action now being planned is not to be a strike in the usual sense, but rather a giant demonstration against joining with the West.

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6. In discussing the strike policy, [redacted] pointed out that it is now urgently necessary to make clear to the individual groups within the DDR that the Adenauer regime will be on an illegal basis if it concludes an alliance with the West. The concepts of self-defense and of all-out resistance against such plans must become part of the daily political training of the East CDU. It will be difficult to convince citizens of the DDR that force can possibly be a patriotic and Christian duty, but that course must be driven home by the CDU to its functionaries and by the latter to the Party members. [redacted] stated that the main task of the CDU in the next few weeks is to direct its political work towards these ideas; the phase of conversations and talks with the Adenauer regime in past.

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7. [redacted] these instructions were given him in Karlshorst after his return from Austria.

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